

FALL ADVOCACY PACKAGE

2024



cfuw fcfd

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ARCHIVED RESOLUTIONS

1

Over the past three years, the CFUW Policy Book Sub-Committee—comprising Margaret Therrien and Teri Shaw—has reviewed the contents of the Adopted Resolution Book to identify resolutions that have outlived their purpose. This could be because they are outdated, duplicative, or because their goal has been achieved. At each Policy Session from 2022 to 2024, the Sub-Committee has put forth resolutions to move those adopted resolutions to the Archived Resolutions Book.

In 2024, **33 resolutions were archived at the Policy Session.** Among them, roughly half were deemed suitable for archiving because of a successful change in policy, law, or practice. While CFUW, or any one organization, cannot take complete credit for causing these successes in advocacy, it is important to **celebrate the wins** that do happen, and recognize that grassroots efforts contributed to them.

Below is a description of **resolutions that were archived at the 2024 Policy Session as a result of successful efforts to affect changes in policy, law, or practice:**

Women and the Indian Act – 1969

This resolution urged the government to remove any clauses in the Indian Act which arbitrarily deprive an Indigenous woman of her rights as a member of her Indigenous group. The Indian Act was amended in 1985, removing sex-based distinctions relating to status entitlement. Bill S-3 in 2019 aimed to end ongoing inequities faced by the descendants of women who had lost their status (*Indian Act*, n.d.).

Abortion – 1970

This resolution urged the government to remove the sections pertaining to abortion from the Criminal Code (to thereby make abortion legal).

These sections of the Criminal Code were removed in 1988, after the Supreme Court found them unconstitutional (*R. v. Morgentaler*, 1988).

Tax Deductions for Tuition Paid on Behalf of a Dependent – 1975

This resolution urged the government to allow a taxpayer whose spouse or dependent is attending an educational institution to deduct that student's tuition fees when filing taxes.

Students are now allowed to transfer their tuition credits to a parent, grandparent, or partner (*Line 32400 - Tuition amount transferred from a child or grandchild*, 2024).

Citizenship Act – Sex Discrimination – 1973

This resolution urged the government to amend the provision in the Citizenship Act in which children born abroad to Canadian mothers had to apply to receive citizenship, whereas children born abroad to Canadian fathers only had to register their birth to receive citizenship. A new Citizenship Act was introduced in 1977, which removed gender discrimination (*Young*, 1997).

ARCHIVED RESOLUTIONS

2



Nutrition Labelling – 1980

This resolution urged the government to implement an effective labelling scheme which would identify the ingredients and nutrient value of manufactured food products. Nutrition labelling became a legal requirement in 2007 (*Nutrition Labelling: Overview*, 2024).

Survivors – 1984

This resolution urged the government to make survivor pensions compulsory, payable for life without any restrictions (such as remarriage), and not less than 60% of the contributor's pension. Following a rule change in 1987, all of these items have been achieved (*Survivor's Pension*, 2024).

Bovine Growth Hormone – 1995

This resolution urged the government to extend the moratorium on the use of bovine growth hormone until further information is available. Health Canada made the decision to not approve bovine growth hormone in 1999, and it has been prohibited ever since (*Forge*, 1998).

Ethical and Human Rights Implications of New Reproductive Technologies – 1998

This resolution urged the government to develop laws/regulations in the area of human reproductive technologies, including prohibiting practices such as selling human eggs, sperm, embryos, and surrogacy services for profit and cloning human beings. The Assisted Human Reproduction Act made these practices illegal in 2004 (*Assisted Human Reproduction*, 2024).

Implementation of the Refugee Appeal Division – 2004

This resolution urged the government to establish the Refugee Appeals Division. The Refugee Appeals Division was launched in 2012 (*Refugee Appeals*, 2023).

Hate Propaganda Provisions of the Criminal Code – Amendment – 2004


This resolution urged the government to bring the list of identifiable groups protected under the hate propaganda section of the Criminal Code in line with the provisions of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, thereby adding sexual orientation to the list. The Criminal Code has since been amended to add protections from hate propaganda based on sexual orientation, as well as gender identity or expression (*Criminal Code*, 2024).

Cluster Munitions – 2008

This resolution urged the government to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions. Canada ratified the convention in 2015 (*Conventional Weapons*, 2023).

Long Form Census – 2013

This resolution urged the government to reinstate the long form census. The long form census was reintroduced in 2016 (*Jackson*, 2016).



RESTORE AND PRESERVE CANADA'S PEATLANDS

PROPOSED BY CFUW NORTH DELTA/SURREY



RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada to work with provincial, territorial, regional, municipal, and Indigenous governments to:

- implement legislation/policies to protect and restore degraded Canadian peatlands and take immediate concrete steps to prevent further destruction of all Canadian peatlands,
- adhere to the principles of the Ramsar Convention Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands (2002) to halt the worldwide loss of wetlands and to conserve, through wise-use and management, those that remain,
- designate funding for research to urgently identify all peatlands in Canada and study how peatlands benefit our earth and its inhabitants.

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada, provincial, territorial, regional, municipal, and Indigenous governments, and educational institutions to:

- educate the public and protect our Canadian peatlands in order to:
 - recognize that these ecosystems are ancient and irreplaceable;
 - mitigate climate change;
 - improve food and water security;
 - reduce forest fire severity;
 - enhance coastal management;
 - decrease ecological concerns regarding peatlands' flora and fauna,
- develop relationships with industry to find sustainable agricultural and horticultural alternatives to peat in order to protect, conserve and restore healthy peatlands,
- engage with industries such as, but not limited to, mining, forestry, road construction and urbanization for the purpose of preventing direct or indirect damage to peatlands.



RESTORE AND PRESERVE CANADA'S PEATLANDS

BACKGROUND

Peatlands are one of the most valuable ecosystems on earth. They are a type of wetland, distinguished by the accumulation of slowly-decomposing vegetation, forming into layers of peat. Like all wetlands, peatlands serve as natural filters, purifying water by trapping pollutants and storing organic matters. They also help to prevent flooding by regulating water flows, and sustain and provide habitats, nesting areas, and hunting grounds for a variety of plant and animal species (*Peatlands*, n.d.).

Incredibly important for the global fight against climate change, **peatlands are the largest natural terrestrial carbon sink in the world**, storing 30% of all land-based carbon (*Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands*, n.d.). When peatlands are drained or damaged, stored carbon is released into the air, becoming a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

Therefore, protecting and restoring peatlands is an essential component of climate change mitigation, and one in which Canada has a leading role to play. **27% of the world's peatlands are located in Canada, and they cover about 13% of the country's surface area** (*Peatlands*, n.d.).

But **Canada's peatlands are at risk**. Many have already been drained to clear land for agriculture, housing, roads, and mining. Peat is also harvested and sold as peat moss, commonly used in gardening.

Peatlands are of significant **cultural importance to many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities** that live near them, and degradation of them poses a serious threat to their ways of living, while also hastening climate change (*Speller & Forbes*, 2021). Canada can prevent these consequences by rewetting degraded peatlands and protecting healthy peatlands from development.

CANADA'S LEGISLATION, OBLIGATIONS, AND POSITIONS

- Canada is one of 172 contracting parties to the 1971 Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an international treaty that provides a framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources.
- At the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention in 2002, the Guidelines for Global Action on Peatlands were established.
- In Canada's 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan, published in 2022, the federal government committed \$780 million to the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, which supports projects that conserve, restore, and enhance Canada's wetlands, peatlands, and grasslands.

RESTORE AND PRESERVE CANADA'S PEATLANDS

WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Educate yourself and your Club members about peatlands by reading written materials, watching documentaries, and listening to podcasts, and host informal chats about what you've learned.

Support First Nations' efforts to prevent peatland destruction, like those of Mushkegowuk Council.

Share CFUW's graphics about this resolution on social media.

Identify any peatlands that exist in/near your community and the protections that exist to preserve them. When you write to members of your local/provincial government, personalize the letters with references to these local peatlands.

Voice your opposition to mining developments that threaten peatlands (such as in the "Ring of Fire" in northern Ontario) to mining companies and provincial governments.


Write to your federal, provincial, and municipal representatives to ask them to support legislation, policies, and an action plan to protect and restore degraded peatlands (see page 16).

Encourage local garden centres, gardening businesses, horticultural associations, and the gardeners in your life to use sustainable alternatives to peat.

Volunteer for, donate to, and collaborate with groups that support peatland conservation, such as Wildlife Conservation Society Canada, Sierra Club, and Ducks Unlimited.

PRESERVING DEEP SEA ECOSYSTEMS

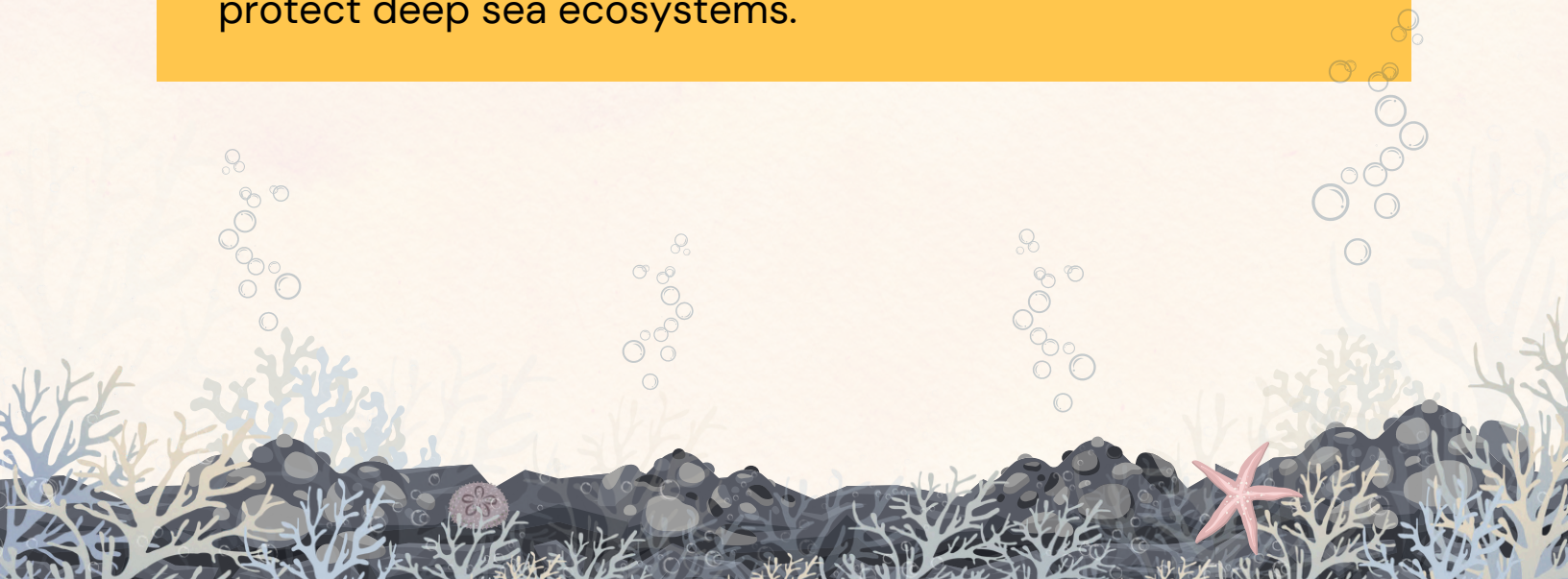
PROPOSED BY CFUW NANAIMO



RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada to protect deep sea ecosystems in Canadian coastal waters by immediately extending the current moratorium on deep seabed mining until research has been completed and a robust regulatory regime has been developed and implemented.

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada to fund and support credible short- and long-term scientific research on deep sea ecosystems and how to regulate and preserve their biodiversity.

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada to work with other member countries to urgently press the International Seabed Authority to declare a precautionary pause on international deep seabed mining activities until comprehensive, science-based and enforceable seabed mining regulations are developed and implemented to protect deep sea ecosystems.



PRESERVING DEEP SEA ECOSYSTEMS

BACKGROUND

The world's **deep sea ecosystems** are home to a unique and abundant array of **diverse marine species**. The seabed is a critical habitat for many of these species, which play an important role in sustaining wider ocean ecosystems and in regulating climate by sequestering carbon ([Hilmi et al., 2023](#)).

Growing demand for rare metals, along with advances in deep sea extractive technology, have prompted **calls to bring industrial-scale mining to the seabed** ([Browning & Rudolph, 2020](#)). Mining companies argue that deep sea mining is less destructive than the blasting that takes place in mines on land, and will produce metals needed for the green transition ([Ormiston & Thomas, 2023](#)).

However, **mining could destroy sponges, corals, and other important marine life and habitats** ([Browning & Rudolph, 2020](#)). Mining also produces harmful light and sound pollution, as well as **sediment clouds** capable of traveling many kilometres, threatening to smother species or disturb their feeding ([Stenvers et al., 2023](#)). In addition, a groundbreaking study recently found that polymetallic nodules (the rocks that would be mined) produce oxygen, meaning their removal could have significant impacts on deep sea oxygen levels ([Sweetman et al., 2024](#)).


Most seabeds lie in international waters, which are regulated by the International Seabed Authority (ISA). The ISA has not yet authorized any commercial mining contracts, as it deliberates over regulations. Some of the 168 member states support a moratorium on mining, while others are pushing to allow it, resulting in slow and unsuccessful negotiations ([Summary Report, 2024](#)). **In the absence of regulations, mining operations could begin within the next year**, due to a provision that mining is implicitly approved if regulations are not developed within two years of a country notifying that it wants to mine ([Mehta, 2023](#)).

CANADA'S LEGISLATION, OBLIGATIONS, AND POSITIONS

- The current government's position on deep sea mining in Canadian waters is that "Canada does not presently have a domestic legal framework that would permit seabed mining and, in the absence of a rigorous regulatory structure, will not authorize seabed mining in areas under its jurisdiction" ([Statement on Seabed Mining, 2023](#)).
- In international waters, the current government also supports a moratorium on commercial seabed mining "in the absence of both a comprehensive understanding of seabed mining's environmental impacts and a robust regulatory regime" ([Canada's Position on Seabed Mining in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, 2023](#)).

PRESERVING DEEP SEA ECOSYSTEMS

WAYS TO TAKE ACTION



Monitor ISA negotiations on deep sea mining regulations to stay up-to-date on the latest developments.


Voice your concerns about deep sea mining to Canadian mining companies by writing letters to them and tagging them in social media posts.

Raise awareness in your community about deep sea ecosystems and the threat of deep sea mining by writing an Op-Ed/Letter to the Editor and hosting public talks.

Share [CFUW's graphics](#) about this resolution on social media.

Write to your MP urging them to voice their support for a moratorium on deep sea mining in Canadian and international waters, and to advocate for greater funding for research on deep sea ecosystems (*see page 16*).

Read and share articles about the importance of deep sea ecosystems to biodiversity and the fight against climate change on social media.



AGEING IN PLACE: RESOURCES FOR ALL CANADIANS TO AGE AT HOME AND IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS

PROPOSED BY THE CFUW ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal, provincial, territorial, regional, municipal, and Indigenous governments to:

- Increase targeted funding for older adults' high-quality, accessible, affordable, and person-centred community services to enable ageing in place at home or in their preferred community setting;
- Ensure funding is allocated equitably in communities, allowing them to build older adult services specific to their context, while taking into consideration cultural diversity and the specific needs of rural, remote, and urban settings;
- Clearly articulate the parameters of funding and ensure accountability and the on-going monitoring of the appropriate distribution of resources with transparency to the public;
- Encourage collaboration among all levels of government in developing, funding, and evaluating a variety of in-home and community care options;
- Ensure that research and practice address the current and emerging needs of older adults in a manner that allows continuous support in home and community settings, and;
- Continue to engage with stakeholders, including, but not limited to, healthcare providers, clinical bodies, and the National Seniors Council, to ensure ongoing up-to-date research and best practices are available from, and for, health care professionals and other stakeholders.

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal government to:

- Provide allocated resources and funding for older adults and/or their families who need additional care supports, and;
- Grant federal subsidies for needed renovations to existing housing to enable ageing in place.



AGEING IN PLACE: RESOURCES FOR ALL CANADIANS TO AGE AT HOME AND IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS

BACKGROUND

A 2023 survey found **90% of Canadians aged 45 and above would prefer in-home care over moving to a long-term care facility** ([Byers, 2023](#)). In addition to being the overwhelming preference of the public, in-home care is also more cost-effective ([National Institute on Ageing, 2022](#)).

Yet, **Canadian provinces spent an average of 33% of total long-term care (LTC) budgets on home- and community-based care options** in 2020–2021, with 67% going to LTC homes ([Busby, 2021](#)). Furthermore, the Canadian Institute for Health Information ([2023](#)) reveals that about 1 in 10 newly-admitted long-term care home residents in Canada could have potentially received care at home.

Ageing in place refers to “**the ability to live safely, independently, and comfortably in one's own home and community, regardless of age, income, or capacity**” ([National Seniors Council, 2024](#)). Formal home care consists of services that a person may need because of health conditions that limit daily activities, such as assistance with bathing, meal preparation, and nursing care. Ageing in place care can also include community programs that focus on physical and social wellbeing.

There exist many models of care that enable ageing in place, with the [United Way BC's Therapeutic Activation Program for Seniors](#) being a great example. There are also innovative community-based housing models for older people, such as [Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities](#), that support ageing in place.

The 2024 [Final Report](#) of the National Seniors Council on Supporting Canadians Ageing at Home outlines 20 recommendations, including introducing a new **Age at Home Benefit**, expanding **affordable housing programs** for older people, and developing a strategy for **recruitment and retention of human resources** for home care.

CANADA'S LEGISLATION, OBLIGATIONS, AND POSITIONS

- Canada's [Age Well at Home initiative](#), running from 2023–2026, directs \$90 million towards projects that support older adults to stay in their homes as long as possible.
- As of August 2024, the federal government has signed [Ageing with Dignity bilateral agreements](#) with most (but not all) provinces and territories, containing \$2.4 billion over four years to improve access to home and community care and \$3 billion over five years for long-term care.

AGEING IN PLACE: RESOURCES FOR ALL CANADIANS TO AGE AT HOME AND IN COMMUNITY SETTINGS

WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

Host presentations from individuals working to support older adults to age in place, like the webinar the CFUW Long-Term Care Study Group held for Elder Action Day in May 2024 ([watch here](#)).

Share [CFUW's graphics](#) about this resolution on social media.

Host kitchen table chats about what healthy ageing looks like.

Participate in CFUW's Elder Action Day every May by sharing the supplied social media graphics and attending the presentation.

Write to your federal, provincial, and municipal representatives in support of funding ageing in place (see page 16).

Volunteer for or donate to organizations in your community that support older adults ageing in place, such as befriending or meal delivery services.

Research models of ageing in place that exist in your community, in Canada, and around the world, and share what you discover with your Club members.

INCENTIVES TO ADOPT CURRENT STANDARDS FOR LONG-TERM CARE

PROPOSED BY THE CFUW ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the federal government to:

- Collaborate with the provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments to integrate the most recent and current Health Standards Organization's and Canadian Standards Association's Long-Term Care Service Standards and their Infection Prevention and Control Standards into management frameworks for Long-Term Care;
- Encourage provinces and territories to develop, adopt, and implement long-term care strategies that comply with those standards and are for all long-term care facilities;
- Provide incentives to provincial, territorial, and Indigenous governments through bilateral agreements, allocated funding, and an accountability framework to facilitate adherence to these standards.



INCENTIVES TO ADOPT CURRENT STANDARDS FOR LONG-TERM CARE

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted serious discrepancies and deficiencies in the standards being applied in long-term care (LTC) homes across Canada. In response, in 2021, the federal government tasked the Health Standards Organization (HSO) and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA Group) with developing **national standards to improve the quality of care in LTC homes** across the country.

Published in 2023, the **HSO Standard covers care services**, while the **CSA Group Standard covers physical environments**. The HSO Standard “provides LTC home teams, leaders, and governing bodies with criteria and guidelines for delivering resident-centred, high-quality care, enabled by a healthy and competent workforce” (*CAN/HSO 21001:2023 - Long-Term Care Services*, 2023). It was developed by a Technical Committee made up of frontline workers, residents, caretakers, and researchers, and incorporated feedback received from over 18,800 Canadians (*Canadians Welcome HSO’s National Long-Term Care Services Standard*, 2023).


The **standards are currently voluntary**. Health care delivery is under provincial/territorial jurisdiction, and the federal government has indicated that it will not mandate the standards (*Development of a Federal Safe Long-Term Care Act: Discussion Paper*, 2023). Therefore, it is the responsibility of the provinces and territories to develop LTC strategies that put the standards in place and establish an accountability framework. However, the federal government could **encourage provinces and territories to do so by providing financial incentives** and tying future LTC funding to the implementation of the standards.

CANADA’S LEGISLATION, OBLIGATIONS, AND POSITIONS

- The standards have been adopted by Accreditation Canada, which accredits about 68% of LTC homes in Canada (*CSA Group and HSO Publish National Long-Term Care Standards*, 2023). Accreditation is mandatory in Alberta, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Quebec, and Saskatchewan, but not in the other provinces and territories (*A Federal Safe Long-Term Care Act*, 2023).
- The federal government committed \$3 billion over five years to support provinces and territories to improve LTC in Budget 2021, and an additional \$1.7 billion over five years to support wage increases for personal support workers in Budget 2023 (*A Federal Safe Long-Term Care Act*, 2023).
- The federal government is currently developing a federal Safe Long-Term Care Act, which “could outline a pan-Canadian vision and principles for the safe operation and delivery of care in LTC homes to reflect the new national standards and encourage provinces and territories to adopt the standards” (*A Federal Safe Long-Term Care Act*, 2023). Consultations were held in summer 2023.

INCENTIVES TO ADOPT CURRENT STANDARDS FOR LONG-TERM CARE

WAYS TO TAKE ACTION



As a Club, research what standards and accreditations are currently required in LTC homes in your province, and identify their shortcomings.

Contact LTC homes in your community to urge them to adopt the HSO and CSA Standards (if they have not already done so), in collaboration with municipal governments and community groups.


Follow the newsletters and social media pages of organizations like the Canadian Health Coalition and National Association of Federal Retirees to stay up-to-date on campaigns related to LTC.

Highlight stories of both high- and low-quality care in LTC homes that you hear and read about by posting them on social media, discussing them with Club members, and sharing them with elected officials.

Write a letter to your MP asking them to join the call for universal adherence to the standards in all long-term care homes (see page 16).

Write an Op-Ed/Letter to the Editor on the need for all LTC homes to adopt the HSO and CSA Standards.

Share CFUW's graphics about this resolution on social media.



ADVOCACY TIPS & LINKS

Read "[Realizing Potential: Advocacy Action Using CFUW Adopted Resolutions](#)" for a useful summary of CFUW Adopted Resolutions that reflect current issues and CFUW priorities. You can consult the full Adopted Resolutions Book [here](#).

Download the template letters provided on page 16 and send them to your local representatives, either in the mail or by email. In your letter, offer to meet your representative to discuss the topic further!

Review and follow the "[CFUW Advocacy Guidelines](#)" and "[CFUW Advocacy: Who Does What?](#)" documents before engaging in any advocacy action as a CFUW Club or member.

Check out the [Advocacy Resources](#) folder within the CFUW Resource Hub online. Here, you can find previous CFUW research, template letters, and other resources organized by topic area. You can also find the [Advocacy Handbook](#), a collection of documents outlining valuable advice and tips on conducting advocacy.

Attend the Fall Advocacy Toolbox Workshop (details in the Club Action Newsletter!)

Sign up for the [CFUW Club Action Newsletter](#) if you haven't already. It's a great way to find out what other Clubs are up to, get inspiration for your own advocacy work, learn about events, and stay up-to-date with advocacy news through the "Advocacy Updates" section.

Reach out to CFUW's National Advocacy and Policy Specialist (advocacy@cfuw-cfdu.ca) or VP Advocacy (vpadvocacy@cfuw.ca) to discuss any advocacy matters or ask any questions.

Propose your own Resolution if there is a topic about which your Club is passionate and on which there is not currently an Adopted Resolution! Read the "[Resolutions Information and Guidelines](#)" document to learn more about how to propose a Resolution.

A NOTE ON TEMPLATE LETTERS

Given the distinct jurisdictions of federal, provincial, Indigenous, and municipal governments across Canada, it is difficult to create template letters that are general enough to be directed at political representatives at all levels of government. Laws, policies, and priorities also differ significantly between Canada’s provinces and municipalities, sometimes making it challenging to create one over-arching “ask” that fits all contexts.

Whether or not the representative is a member of the governing political party vs. a member of an opposition party also changes the “ask” a lot of the time.

Additionally, letters that are personalized to a local context are much more effective and have a greater chance of catching a politician’s eye—especially if it is made clear why the issue is important to their constituents.

For these reasons, **the template letters provided here should be used as *general templates, to be personalized and built on by CFUW Clubs and individuals.*** Use your knowledge of your community to strengthen the letters, and engage your representatives by making specific requests *on which they are capable of acting.* Feel free to include details about your CFUW Club, such as how many members you have, the causes you support, and the money you raise. Consider including a personal or local story that illustrates the issue for your context. And if you wish to do so, suggest meeting with the representative face-to-face to discuss the issue more fully.

In the Word documents, remember to fill in the relevant information where any text is written in red. Please send copies of your letters to advocacy@cfuw-fcfdu.ca so that CFUW National can see and learn from all the personalized letters you’re sending!

LINKS TO DOWNLOAD TEMPLATE LETTERS

PEATLANDS

[Template letter for CFUW Clubs](#)

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[Template letter for individuals](#)

DEEP SEA MINING

[Template letter for CFUW Clubs](#)

—

[Template letter for individuals](#)

AGEING IN PLACE

[Template letter for CFUW Clubs](#)

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[Template letter for individuals](#)

LTC STANDARDS

[Template letter for CFUW Clubs](#)

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[Template letter for individuals](#)

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